

Senate Study Bill 1165 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SINCLAIR)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements school districts and accredited
2 nonpublic schools must meet to provide distance learning
3 classes that meet the requirements of Iowa's education
4 program.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.42, subsection 7, paragraph c, Code
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 ~~c. Any specified subject course to which~~ If the provisions
4 of section 256.11, subsection 5, does not apply under are
5 made inapplicable under paragraph "a", or are waived under
6 paragraph "b" shall, the specified subject may be provided
7 by the initiative if the initiative offers the course unless
8 the course offered by the initiative lacks the capacity to
9 accommodate additional students. In that case, the specified
10 subject course may instead be provided or by the school
11 district or accredited nonpublic school if. Any course
12 not required under section 256.11, subsection 5, may also
13 be provided by the initiative or by the school district or
14 accredited nonpublic school. However, in either case, if
15 offered by the school district or accredited nonpublic school,
16 the specified subject or course shall be offered through either
17 of the following applies means:

18 (1) ~~Through an~~ An online learning platform if the course is
19 developed by the school district or accredited nonpublic school
20 itself, provided the course is taught by an Iowa licensed
21 teacher with online learning experience and the course content
22 is aligned with the Iowa content standards and satisfies the
23 requirements of subsection 6.

24 (2) ~~Through a~~ A private provider utilized to provide the
25 course that meets the standards of section 256.42 and is
26 approved in accordance with section 256.9, subsection 55.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill permits school districts and accredited nonpublic
31 schools to offer distance learning courses to meet the state's
32 educational program "offer and teach" course requirements at
33 the high school level by utilizing Iowa learning online (ILO)
34 through the department of education, or by offering such a
35 course through an online platform if the course is developed

1 by the school district or school itself, or by offering such
2 a course through a private provider that meets standards
3 specified under Code section 256.42 and is approved by the
4 director of the department.

5 Currently, statute provides that the educational program
6 requirements for certain courses at the high school level
7 shall not apply or may be waived by the department if a school
8 district or accredited nonpublic school is unable to employ
9 an appropriately licensed teacher for the specified course,
10 or too few students typically enroll in the specified course,
11 or the school district or school proved to the department's
12 satisfaction that the school district or school has made
13 every reasonable effort to meet Iowa's educational program
14 requirements for the specified course. However, the specified
15 course must be provided by the ILO unless the ILO lacks the
16 capacity, in which case the school district or school can offer
17 the course through an online platform or through a private
18 provider that meets certain standards.

19 The bill strikes the requirement that ILO provide the
20 course, and instead gives school districts and schools the
21 option of using ILO or an online platform or a private provider
22 to provide the specified subject or any other course that is
23 not required under the state's education standards.